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NOVEMBER 1966

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Forty-fourth year of Publication



TOC H JOURNAL

*Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view
and are not necessarily those of the Movement*

November 1966

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Together with a List of

HEADQUARTERS, REGIONS, AREAS AND HOUSES OF TOC H

COVER PICTURE: JOINING THE SCRAP: These children from a Leicester school were having a day's outing on the farm of Raymond Kind of Countesthorpe Branch, whose members collected the scrap metal and thereby raised £63 for Branch jobs.

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INTO THE POOL

IN PREVIOUS YEARS Dor Knap "Continents' Weeks" have done much to establish our two-way traffic between Britain and Belgium. This August saw another innovation when

Two-Way Traffic some sixteen Belgian boys and girls of pre-University age spent a week in London, arranged by the Projects Centre. Coming

from Poperinge, Brussels, Ieper, Reninge and elsewhere, they were billeted in a variety of hospitable places, and each morning, after preparing their picnic lunch at Crutched Friars House, set off to explore various places of interest. The friendships were renewed when they re-assembled in Poperinge in September to greet the Projects Centre staff and a party of British students. Who knows, some of these young Belgian folk may be back here next year to join one or other of our summer projects. There were two Poperinge boys on the Camberley project described in this issue.

READERS MAY REMEMBER our report in October, 1965, of the Nottingham boys' camp run by Toc H, assisted by some policemen, and how some of the boys helped to save two

The Arm of the Law others from drowning. A sequel to this story appeared recently in the *Nottingham Evening Post* telling how a policeman had come to court to speak up for a thirteen-year-old boy charged, along with several others, with housebreaking and other offences. The policeman told how the boy had once risked his life to save another boy from drowning, and said that loneliness had led him into his present trouble. "He wants", said the policeman, "to join the Toc H Mobile Action Volunteers, a group of people who help the elderly. This would occupy his time." The boy was put on probation.

AT THE BEGINNING of October MAYNE ELSON, formerly Area Secretary for London and Beds & Herts, succeeded Squadron Leader CYRIL MINCHINTON as Commissioner for our Services Clubs in Germany. We all wish him well in his efforts to maintain the vital contribution which Toc H is making to the life of Service men and their families there. Mayne's most urgent task is to recruit more men and women to help take the strain off our presently overworked Clubs staff, and this concerns every one of us. Or it should do.

CHESTERTON'S REMARK, "Nothing is real until it is local", is quoted often enough in Toc H, and nowhere is it more applicable than in the realm of publicity. So hats off to Gordon

Westward, Look! Roberts and the seven men's and three women's Branches in West Cornwall. They have produced a thirty-two page booklet giving the activities of each Branch and local and Toc H information as well. Anyone wishing to see how they have done it should write to the Hon. Area Padre, the Rev. Peter Eustice, Treslothan Vicarage, Camborne, for a copy of the booklet, price 1s.

WHEN A FORMER Sunderland minister, the Rev. ARTHUR THOMPSON, wrote to the *Sunderland Echo* to say that the bell of his mission church in Guyana could not ring out on

Toc H Rings Independence Day because it was cracked, **the Bell** Sunderland Branch decided to do something about it. A search of ship-brokers' yards proving fruitless, they placed an order with a local firm of brassfounders for a brand new fourteen inch bell. When it was ready the firm, Messrs. WARD & DAVIDSON of Bonnersfield, said: "It's yours for nothing." Now the delighted Branch are trying to find someone who can deliver the bell personally to Padre Thompson.

IN THIS ISSUE considerable space is given to reports on this summer's programme of projects and other youth activities. That this work grows year by year is the finest tribute to

The Young Ambition its pioneer, the late Colonel 'TOSHER' ELLIOT, that he could have wished. The important question now is to what extent our 'conventional' Branches want to know what is going on and are willing to accept these signs of the times and adapt their approach accordingly. At least we hope that they will probe these questions eagerly and deeply before reaching any fatal conclusion that this is yet another insoluble problem of new wine and old bottles.

A Pocketful of Projects — 1966

KEN PRIDEAUX-BRUNE

Ken is one of the Projects Centre Team
and Joint Editor of "New Forum"

A THREE-WEEK SUMMER PROGRAMME for a hundred children in Balsall Heath, Birmingham; a two-week holiday in Surrey for handicapped people; the building of an Adventure Playground for gipsies in Hampshire; these are just three of the highlights of the largest and most varied programme of projects yet run by Toc H Projects Centre. And, not to be outdone, Bob Simmons ran a project in Singapore!

The summer programme in Balsall Heath was probably the most ambitious project of the lot. A programme of activities was organised for a multi-racial group of children during the first three weeks of the school holidays (for the first time information about a Toc H project had to be put out in Urdu and Hindi!). Preliminary contact had been made with five local schools, and some indication of the need is given by the fact that about 350 children applied for the one hundred available places.

The programme was planned and run by former Clayton Volunteer, Colin Slough, and organised on the lines of similar American programmes. The children were divided into seven groups, each with one of the volunteers (mainly university students, including two American Winant Volunteers) as group leader and a local teenager as assistant group leader. Each group leader was entirely responsible for planning the activities of his own group within a general framework agreed beforehand.

The programme received the active support and encouragement of the Birmingham Education Committee. Besides making a financial grant they loaned a local primary school as a base and provided all the equipment. Activities at the school included games, gymnastics and arts and crafts. At least one full day a week was spent on outings to museums, parks, art galleries, the airport and Warwick Castle. Parties also went train spotting, and some of the girls attended a cookery demonstration given by the Gas Board. The programme, in fact, was designed not merely to keep the children happily occupied, but to be in part educational, to give the children a wider knowledge of their own city and its facilities. Not that the outings always went off smoothly! There was for instance an occasion when every escalator in the new Bull Ring Centre came to a halt. A group of boys had pressed all the 'stop' buttons.

The Parents Joined In

In planning the programme special emphasis was placed on involving the parents. Every group leader spent two or three evenings a week visiting the homes of the members of his or her group, and the climax was a parents' evening during the final week. The staff were very much encouraged by the fact that about half the parents turned up.

The success of the project owed much to the very real group spirit which developed among the leaders. That it was a success the staff, the children, the parents and the Education Committee were all agreed. Already it has been suggested that a similar programme, but on a very much larger scale, shall be run next summer. Not the least result of the three weeks may prove to be the formation of a Volunteer group in the area, with teenagers who acted as junior staff as its nucleus.

Equally demanding was the holiday for handicapped people at Crabhill, the new W.V.S. holiday home at South Nutfield, Surrey. Toc H was asked to staff the home for a two-week period. This meant dressing and feeding the guests, dealing with bed-pans, and providing general physi-

cal assistance, as well as planning the entertainment and recreation. In the evenings a number of outside groups, including the newly-formed Banstead Mobile Action unit, provided entertainment. During the day the volunteers organised fancy dress competitions, sports, treasure hunts, and painting, as well as coach outings to Worthing and Chessington Zoo. Helpers normally worked a fourteen-hour day, so the project made considerable demands on time as well as in terms of imagination and patience. But all the helpers, though very ready for a rest at the end of their two-week stint, seemed to feel that it was all very worthwhile.

None of the helpers had had any previous experience of this kind of work. "The guests," says one member of the party, "were as much amused by our amateur skills as by the official entertainments. . . . We perhaps provided a pleasant contrast to the professional atmosphere of a hospital or nursing home." However this may be, there is no doubt that the value of a project of this kind lies not so much in the physical tasks performed as in the opportunity it gives the guests to spend a fortnight in the company of a young and lively group of people.

Something New

Another quite new departure this year was the project at a resettlement centre for gipsies run by the Hampshire County Council at Yateley, near Camberley. Here the Job was to build an adventure playground, and assisting the project leader, John Mitchell, as 'expert adviser' was Surrey H.A.C., Allan Hunt. His reactions to this experience appear elsewhere in this issue. The work party included three Belgians and a Ghanaian.

The resettlement centre has been set up by the County Council as the first stage in integrating the gipsies into normal life. The romantic picture of the gipsy as one who enjoys life on the open road is sheer fantasy. The great majority of them would much prefer to have a roof over their heads and to enjoy the amenities of twentieth century

civilisation. The problem of course is that their way of life is such as to make them undesirable Council tenants. At the centre, therefore, they are provided with prefab accommodation as a temporary measure. There is a Warden and a social worker whose task is to help them adjust to normal home life and a stable job. Up to now there have been no facilities of any kind for children at the centre, and the Toc H playground is therefore much appreciated.



Two young customers await completion of contract.

A more elaborate adventure playground was built for the Ely Hospital School for mentally subnormal children, in Cardiff, during a three-week project run by Colin Parr. This also was an international group, with four from France, one from Holland, as well as people from Sheffield, Pickering, Oxford, the Wirral and a number of local volunteers from Cardiff. And we have already been asked to build another adventure playground next January, this time in North London.

This year also saw, for the first time, projects in Scotland. One of these was for the Camphill Village Trust, at Newton Dee Village, near Aberdeen, a home for mentally handicapped young adults. The villagers form families, together with their house-parents, and they work in one or other of the groups which are responsible for the general running of the Village. They are encouraged to take part in making decisions, through the medium of a monthly Village Assembly.

The Toc H party helped with the general farming and forestry work, in particular picking strawberries and clearing bracken and undergrowth from recently planted trees.

In the space available it is obviously not possible to describe all the projects undertaken this summer, but I hope that these samples give some idea of their scope and variety. What has been accomplished by all this activity? What can we claim as results? We can point to sixteen pieces of work successfully accomplished. Perhaps more important, about 170 young people have been given the experience of doing something for other people, and the opportunity of making friends with their contemporaries from different backgrounds, different parts of the country and, in some cases, from overseas.

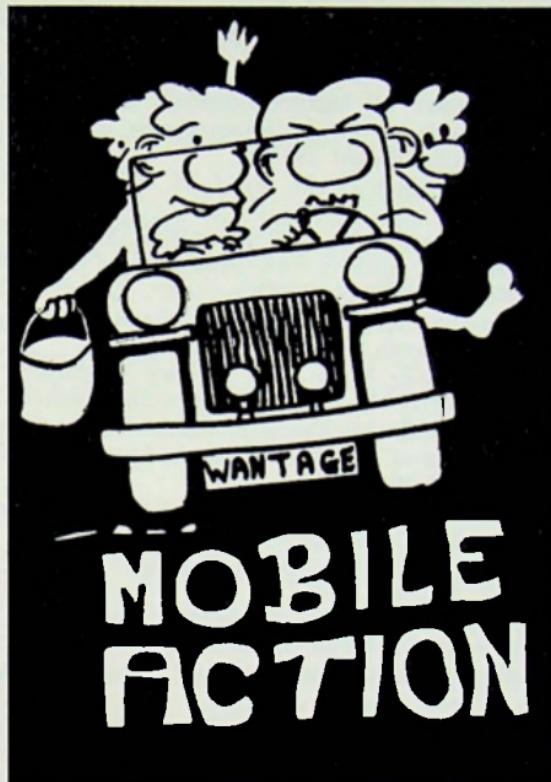
Summing Up

There can be little doubt that the work projects have become an important and significant part of Toc H. Those who have taken part feel themselves in a very real sense to be involved in and with Toc H. But if the projects are to fulfil their potential they must be recognised clearly as an integral part of the Movement and not merely as an offshoot which is the responsibility only of the staff members concerned. So perhaps I may end by mentioning two specific ways in which all Toc H members can take a hand.

First, we are now making plans for next year's projects and would welcome suggestions of jobs, even though we may not be able to act on them all. Such jobs must obviously be designed to meet a real need. Ideally they should

involve work with people rather than be purely manual. And there should be sufficient work to occupy a party of twelve to fifteen for a ten-day period.

Secondly, it is to be hoped that all Toc H members will regard themselves as recruiting agents for the projects. There can be no better way of introducing people to the reality of the ideals for which the Movement stands. Details and application forms can be obtained from me at the Toc H Projects Centre, 41 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.



The whole spirit and purpose of Mobile Action is vividly presented in this poster by the art master of King Alfred's School, Wantage.

Elder Brethren

we will remember them

Bellerby—On August 19, Norman Henry Bellerby, aged 69, a founder member of Kettering Branch, formerly of Stanley Branch. Elected 1952.

Cochrane—In September, Councillor Leslie George Cochrane, aged 58, of Fareham Branch. Elected 1931.

Burrows—On September 11, Arthur Rupert Burrows, aged 68, of Syston Branch. Elected 1960.

Foster—On August 9, Albert Wedgewood Foster, aged 79, of Scartho Branch. Elected 1950.

Fowler—On September 14, William John Fowler, aged 62, a founder member of Uckfield Branch. Elected 1945.

Green—On August 6, Ernest E. James Green, aged 77, of Hunstanton Branch. Elected 1948.

Grove—In June, Arthur Grove, aged 65, of Hinckley Branch. Elected 1962.

Hawkins—On September 1, William Alfred Hawkins, of Boscombe Branch, formerly of Harborne and Birmingham Central Branches. Elected 1920.

Logan—On August 30, John Henry St. Bede Logan, aged 65, of Prestwick Branch. Elected 1966.

McIver—On September 3, the Rev. Duncan J. Maclean McIver, aged 63, formerly of Accrington Branch. Elected 1935.

Major—On September 15, Douglas Percy Major, aged 58, a founder member of Westerham Branch, formerly of Wadhurst Branch. Elected 1952.

Malcolmson—On July 28, the Rev. James S. Malcolmson, a Scottish Area member. Elected 1947.

Pye—On August 30, William Alfred Pye, aged 71, of Leigh-on-Sea Branch. Elected 1934.

Proctor—On September 19, Frank Proctor, aged 53, of Wortley-de-Leeds Branch. Elected 1958.

Russell—In August, James Nelson Russell, aged 72, of Kingston, Jamaica, Branch. Elected 1942.

Senior—On September 19, Hermon Houldsworth Senior, aged 59, a West Yorkshire Area member, formerly of Halifax Branch. Elected 1954.

Smith—On August 25, Ronald Smith, aged 62, of Louth Branch. Elected 1943.

Taylor—On September 22, Arthur Matheson Taylor, aged 56, of Highams Park Branch. Elected 1962.

Spurrell—On August 29, the Rev. Gilbert William Durnford Spurrell, aged 45, Padre of North Walsham Branch. Elected 1963.

Threadgould—On August 23, Frederick Threadgould, aged 52, of Wortley-de-Leeds Branch. Elected 1950.

Tomlinson—On August 9, Vernal Tomlinson, aged 57, of Chirk Branch. Elected 1949.

Not According to the Book

JOHN CALLF

CEREMONIES, like everything else worth doing, are worth doing well. But accidents do happen even in the best regulated families and occasionally in the Toc H Family over the years some of its ceremonies have not gone quite according to plan.

I remember before the last war the presentation of a Rushlight to a certain village group. In those days the form was that a member carrying the lighted Rushlight, and suitably escorted, stood without the meeting room and knocked on the door, whereat a member inside would give the challenge "Who goes there?" On the reply, "The bearer of the Light," the challenger would fling open the door with the words, "We bid you welcome."

On this particular winter's night standing without meant waiting at the top of an outside flight of wooden stairs leading to the loft which was the Branch headquarters. At the appropriate time the lights inside were extinguished and a knock came from the bearer and his escort outside. "Who goes there?", asked the Chairman. "The bearer of the light," came the muffled reply. The Chairman flung open the door, the welcome bidding on his lips. Whoosh! went the draught, and out went the Rushlight. There followed a muttered consultation between reception party and bearer, after which the latter withdrew to repeat the ceremony from the beginning. After

the same preliminaries, once again the door was flung open. Whoosh! went the draught and again out went the Rushlight. A few muttered words by one of the escort party (not intended to be overheard) indicated that the proceedings were no longer sacred but profane, and by then most of the guests were in a state of giggling hysteria. Eventually a compromise ceremony was agreed upon and the further proceedings were carried out in high good humour.

Initiation of new members can be a little fraught if the brother-to-be is at all nervous. One staff member called upon to initiate a young chap handed him the Lamp. "What is this?" asked the chap: "The Lamp of Maintenance", replied the staff man, and was half way to getting himself initiated into Toc H for the second time before it dawned on him that they were getting the questions and answers back to front.

Still on the subject of Initiation, startling new departures were conjured up by the Pilot, a dear old boy, who solemnly reminded his Branch that a forthcoming initiation must be conducted "with circumcision".

A careless, off-hand treatment of Lamps is always to be regretted but so too is any excessive 'lampolatry'. In one case a Branch wrote to the Area Padre asking whether someone not yet a member was permitted to touch the Lamp. Apparently a young probationer had actually picked up the Lamp from the table and carried it over to the mantelpiece: was this forbidden? The Area Padre did not treat the matter as solemnly as the Branch evidently did, for in his reply he simply referred to II Samuel, Ch. 6, which tells of the unfortunate young man who put forth his hand to steady the Ark on its journey and fell dead.

We have heard too of the member who mistakenly filled the Lamp with petrol instead of paraffin. The Branch log should record that not only Arthur but the Branch headquarters too took light on that particular night.

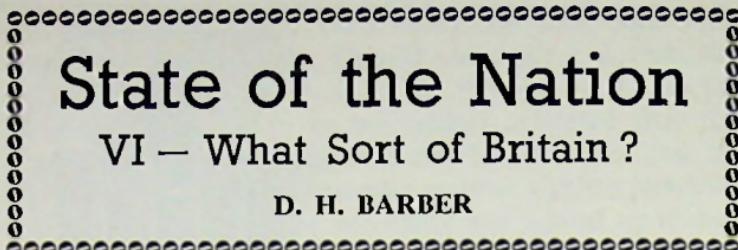


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State of the Nation

VI — What Sort of Britain ?

D. H. BARBER

This series, which began in May with The Times editorial, has produced an interesting variety of contributions. It now ends with an article from the Westminster Echo which we gratefully reproduce.

I THINK it would be well to consider what sort of Britain we want to build when we begin once again to advance. And first let me insist that we can have any sort of Britain we like, if we want it badly enough. We must pay our way in the world, it is true, but paying our way simply means not spending more on the goods and services we import than we earn from the goods and services we export. So long as we avoid this, we are free as a nation to choose for ourselves the level of material luxury at which we aim. To put it another way, we are free to choose how much time we devote to increasing our material wealth, and how much time we spend on enjoying the things of the mind and spirit, or how much of our birthright we elect to sell for how much pottage.

More than that, each individual in our society, so long as he does not consume more than he produces, can to a large extent choose his own material standard of living without a guilty conscience. Two families may live in adjoining semi-detached houses, husband, wife, and two young children. Jones in one house can properly decide to have a car for himself and another for his wife, colour television, a washing-machine, telephone, spin-dryer, and washing-up machine, fitted carpets in every room, and new

furniture throughout. He may take three daily papers and five on Sundays. To do this he must work sixteen hours' overtime, and induce Mrs. Jones to go out to work. Brown, next door, may prefer to spend his Sundays gardening instead of cleaning the car on Sunday mornings and spending his Sunday afternoons in traffic-jams. Mrs. Brown may elect to go without the washing-up machine and have mats and linoleum instead of fitted carpets and watch ordinary TV from inherited armchairs, so as to be able to be at home with buttered crumpets for tea when the children come from school, and to have the strength left to give Mr. Brown a well-cooked evening meal instead of tinned curried chicken. She may think it worth forgoing a lot of gadgets to have Mr. Brown home at five-thirty, fresh and able to play cricket with the boy, instead of at seven-thirty, tired and gastric.

Which Level?

Jones and Brown are, from a national point of view, equally good citizens, but Brown will, of course, pay less in taxes, and if all had the sense to be Browns something of the simplicity of life he has chosen would have to be reflected in the amenities that the Government could provide. Only one instead of both his children might be able to go to a University, and the younger child might perhaps have to endure for a little longer the horror of attending a primary school where it was necessary to cross five yards of playground to reach the lavatory. Less new roads would be built, but less would be needed if the Browns had no cars and required no trucks to deliver their washing-up machines. Hospitals might be slower building, but Brown would develop no ulcers, and need hospitals less. A perfectly viable Britain is possible at either the Brown level or the Jones level, or with a mixture of both.

Progress is good, but a nation whose sole ambition is a constant increase in productivity at the expense of human happiness is a stupid nation. The Portuguese and Spaniards

have, by modern reckoning, a low material standard of living, but tourists report them as a fairly happy people. In the United States the happiest people are probably those farthest from the big centres of affluence, and the family with four cars, and colour TV in the lavatory are probably the most miserable folk on earth, excepting those with empty bellies in the underdeveloped nations. And there is no reason why a Brown economy should not do as much as a Jones economy for our brothers abroad.

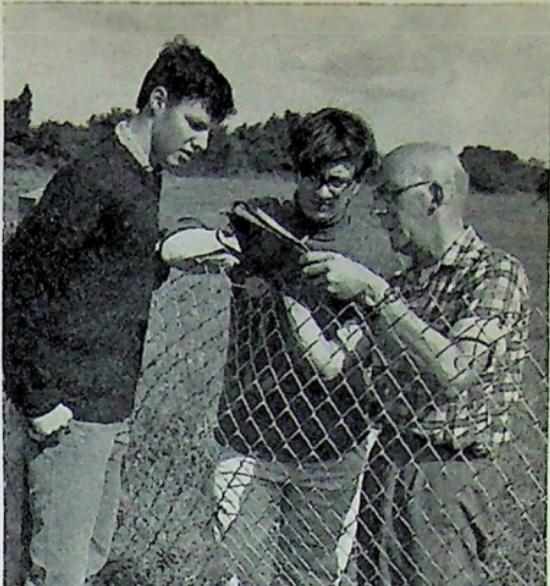
From a Balance of Payments point of view increased thrift is at least as useful as increased productivity, and sensible leadership would aim at a nation about halfway between the material level of the United States and the material level of Portugal, and this level is much more likely to be attained and maintained, in my view, by a nation of Browns rather than a nation of Jones'. Brown is always the better and more conscientious manager and workman, and more likely to produce quality goods, and our best hope of survival in the modern world is to become a nation of quality people producing goods of Rolls Royce standard.

As for our prospects of retaining or regaining Great Power status, the inevitable outlawry of War will mean that the Great Powers of the future will be those who lead the way in dignified and orderly self-Government, in the happiness of family life, in the pursuit of Truth and the practice of Religion, in the dissemination of culture and the appreciation of art, and in athletic prowess and sportsmanship in the new World Wars of International Sport. A Brown attitude to material things is much more likely to achieve this sort of Greatness than a Jones attitude.

The *Westminster Echo* is a bi-monthly news-letter, the lone effort of a working journalist, D. H. Barber. It aims to put national and international problems into perspective in a constructive, Christian approach. Annual subscription is 5s., available only through D. H. Barber, 2 Bell Lane, Ludlow, Shropshire.

Bridging the Gulf

ALLAN HUNT



Allan and two Volunteers
work out the next stage.

JOHN CALF'S article in the July JOURNAL about a divided Family has been in my mind for some time, though on a slightly different tack. His reference to the gap between the old and the young does deserve some consideration. One thing I as an older member have always feared (and I am sure I am not alone in this) is the effort needed to bridge the gap between the under twenties and the over forties.

Under circumstances that would take too long to explain I was asked by John Mitchell of our Projects Centre to help lead a project as a technical adviser and general foreman. At Yateley, near Camberley, a centre has been set up for gipsies in transit from their caravans to permanent homes, in the hope that whilst in the settlement they will begin to get acclimatised to living in a community. The project involved the planning and building of a playground for the children. Here was a chance, and I accepted, though nearer the time I think I would have seized on any excuse to back out. However, the dice was loaded and on the morning of July 25 John took me into a room on the project site, and after a brief introduction it was "out to

work". By lunch time all my fears had gone. To use one of the group's own phrases, I was 'in'. The time went all too quickly and on the last night during an inquest on the week it came out that both sides, the younger and the older, were facing up to the same problem—how to meet halfway.

I made ten new friends on that project and learned a great deal. First, and most important, the young people today are much more knowledgeable world-wise at eighteen than I was at the same age and therefore we must talk *with* them and not *down* to them. Secondly, they cannot stand bad planning. Working with them, you must know what you want and see that all the materials are to hand. They come prepared to work in work periods, so the work must be there for them to do. Thirdly, you have to be prepared to listen, especially if your project is flexible, as ours was. They come up with real ideas.

This working together is not, of course, the complete answer to bridging the gap between the generations, but I am sure it is a beginning. Young people may not like the idea of meeting weekly and listening to speakers, but given three factors—working together, meeting people, and a chance to talk, at least the planks of the bridge can be laid. They may not become Toc H members, but I don't think that is the most important thing. What *is* important is that we share a common concern about people, together.

Just imagine a thousand members, each working with ten young people for a week each year. By simple mathematics this amounts to twenty-one years of work together each year. Staggering, isn't it? Here then is the challenge: find the project, two local schoolboys to act as guides to the strangers, two local members as 'experts' and eight to ten boys from where you will.

Why not get in touch now and start planning for next year? We'll never get anywhere just sitting and waiting for each other to make the first move. Let's use our opportunities as material to build the bridge.



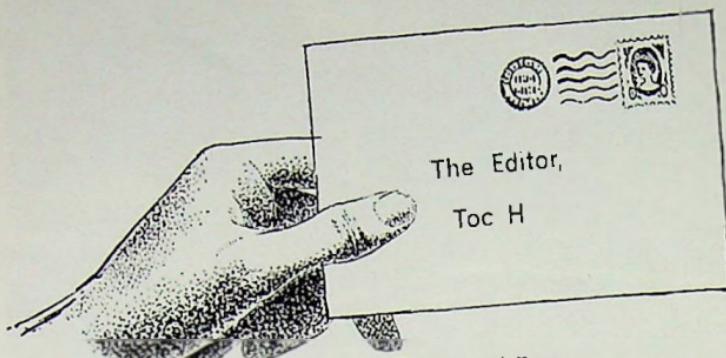
An artist's impression of the new LEPRA Control Centre in Blantyre, Malawi.

LEPRA Thanks Toc H

All members—but especially those Toc H men and women who have worked so hard for LEPRA over the years—will be glad to know of the inscription which will appear over each of two beds in the hospital block of the new Leprosy Control Centre, Blantyre, Malawi, the foundation stone of which was laid by the President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Hastings Banda, on October 20. The two plaques will bear the words:

This bed has been endowed by the British Leprosy Relief Association in recognition of the invaluable help given both at home and overseas by Toc H in the fight against leprosy.

Our readers may remember some correspondence in October last year about a memorial to Hamish MacGregor, one of the first five Toc H volunteers to go out to the leprosy field. His memorial will take the form of another bed in this same block. Thus we will have very special reason to follow the progress of the new Centre with our interest and our prayers.



...communication...

Rhodesia

AS A FORMER resident in Rhodesia I have read with interest the articles by Charles Thompson and Sir Robert Tredgold published in your July issue.

Mr. Thompson's statement that "the *burden* of taxation falls largely on the shoulders of 220,000 whites" needs close examination. To begin with this "burden" is a good deal lighter in Rhodesia than it is in Britain. As a married man with two dependent children and an income of over £2,000 a year I paid about £150 a year in income tax. But the African people pay taxes too. As the average annual income of African employees, including income in kind, is about £125, not many African people pay income tax. All African adults pay a personal tax of £2 a year, to which they are liable whether employed or not, and whether they have land or not.

In 1964 indirect taxation produced £26.7 million. Since the

total income of African employees amounted to some £75 millions, excluding that of self-employed persons, a considerable part of the £26.7 millions was derived from African sources; it may be as much as £10,000,000. This sum would be more than sufficient to cover the Government contribution to African education (£5.1 million for 1964/65) and would also allow for a contribution to the health service. In 1964 Africans also contributed £1.2 million in school fees and a considerable sum towards the books, equipment and buildings for new schools.

In general the African people pay for the services they obtain. Municipal housing estates are financed on an economic basis and are not subsidised from the rates. Social services in the urban African townships are financed from beer hall profits. Developments in rural areas are paid for by a levy on produce sold by African farmers who receive a lower price than their European counterparts.

It should also be pointed out that the Government contribution of £6.1 million towards African education had to be shared by over 600,000 children. In contrast £5 million was spent on the education of some 60,000 European, Asian and coloured children. In 1965 £669,670 was outstanding in school fees in the European sector out of an estimated total of £1,100,000.

Many opportunities of employment which would lead to incomes that would be taxable are barred to African people.

Rhodesia is a segregated Society in which the interests of the African people are invariably secondary to those of the Europeans. This situation will not change fundamentally so long as political power remains completely in European hands. T. E. ASHTON Zambia.

Street Wardens

HAS ANYONE any experience in organising a Street Warden scheme for attention to old people? I and another townsman have been invited to be joint organisers for this and the Old People's Welfare Association, and would appreciate any helpful information.

G. E. MOORE
29 Four Acres, Saffron Walden.

"Love from Judy"

The Stock Exchange Dramatic & Operatic Society has chosen this musical which has its first night in aid of Toc H funds at the Scala Theatre, London, W.1, on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1967. The proceeds will go towards the cost of the new wing at Mark XX, Putney, now being erected. Please notify Ken Rogers at Headquarters of any block bookings likely to be required by Branches.

Fighting Words

Now THAT "minimal" and "breakthrough" have found their way into the JOURNAL (Sept.) shall we be able to avoid the rest of the words beloved by television announcers, politicians and journalists?

Will Branches be worried by lack of overspill or, if there happens to be overspill, where to decent it; shall we have problems of commuting to outlying Branches, true facts, advance planning and undefeatability? Will everything Toc H endeavours to do be described as exciting—just like a football match?

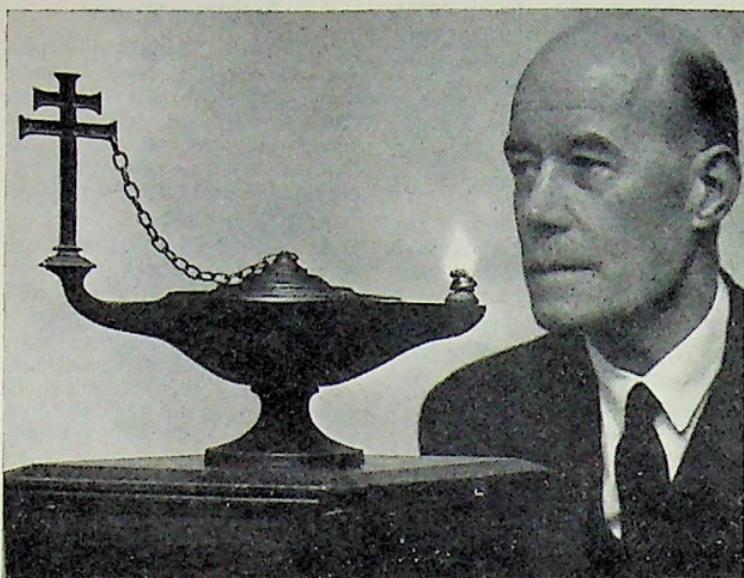
If this occurs I shall turn with relief to *Woman's Weekly*.

R. E. BURREN
Balham.

"So Wonderfully Made"

YOUR PARAGRAPH (Sept.) on the above reminds me that many years ago a Celtic scholar translated the Toc H prayer into Welsh. All went well until another and still more eminent scholar insisted that the version his colleague had produced meant, and could only mean "who has made Toc H so wonderful." Perhaps your anonymous clergyman was reading from the Welsh script.

HUBERT SECRETAN
Dulwich.



Three Links in a Chain

BOB KNIGHT

In imagination, three people meditate on the approaching World Chain of Light.

A General Member

THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT comes around again in a week or two, Lord. I read once that the strength of a chain is the strength of its weakest link. I may be that link.

The habit of meeting every Monday night bored me, so I became a General Member. They still meet, and they send me invitations. I need something fixed and steady in my life because the changes going on all the time scare me. Is nothing sacred? Even Toc H is changing.

The two teenagers next door went on a Toc H project in August. Now they have found twenty others and formed

a Mobile Action group. What should I do about it? That new hospital for mentally handicapped children has no league of friends, but mental illness is a tough situation for teenagers.

I could be a link, but I'm too old for this Mobile Action and the Branch bores me. When I go to church, I get bored there too. The T.V. bores me; so does my job.

The Mobile Action don't know what the World Chain is. They don't *want* to know. Could I persuade them to come and join in with the Branch for half-an-hour? Would they mix? . . .

A Foundation Member

THIS CHAIN OF LIGHT is one of the best traditions we have, Lord. Use it again to inspire us and get us in the right spirit.

We have a reputation for service, but the compassion that compels us is yours. I'm sure of this when we are unknown and unsung.

But they all say we should get publicity these days. Help us to seek it for the right reasons and not for our own glory. If we get it, strengthen us with an accurate sense of achievement, so that we neither make too much nor too little of what you constrain us to do.

We have to "build bravely", with everyone demanding changes to bring us up-to-date. Show us where we are only going through the motions, with no inspiration for ourselves or for strangers.

When we were young there was a shortage of tested adults. We eagerly took our chance to run things and make a peaceful world. We have not succeeded, and today's problems are bigger and more complex.

The young resent our power and the years we have had it. Energy does diminish, but wisdom grows, and conviction is stronger. Take what my years have given, and give me in return the grace to wait until I'm asked for my opinion; and when I am, prevent me from saying too much. . . .

A Marksman

TOC H GAVE ME a chance to do something worthwhile in the holidays. Now they are asking me to join in this World Chain of Light. They say it is a tradition in the Mark.

I suspect tradition. Most of it is a dead weight. Probably the ceremonies and words meant something once, but no one has tried to show me any connection between the project and this Chain of Light.

These Toc H people are odd. They have all made a commitment beyond anything I feel able to make. A few don't live up to it, but most of them clearly try. They also keep trying to persuade me to join and make the same commitment as they have. That would be hypocrisy, but they think I'm obstinate.

All I can do at present is to offer to help whenever I have time, and hope I shall find meaning and purpose in my life. That is what I want. . . .

* * *

I HAVE HEARD your prayers and overheard your thoughts. You are all important in your generation, and each of you will find your way into my kingdom if you persist.

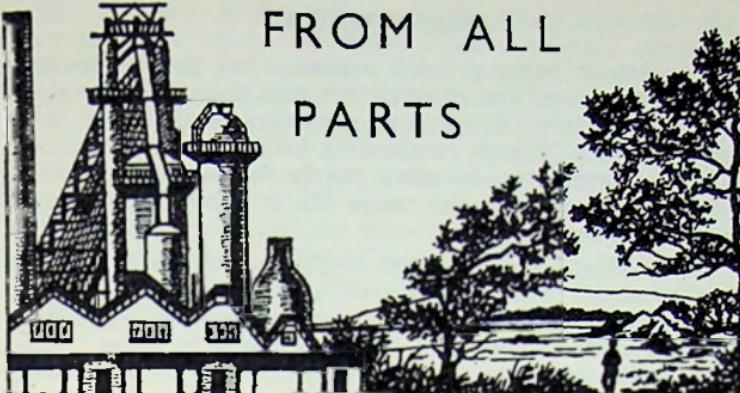
Boredom is only the end of habit. You look for self-satisfaction, and as you grow, what once satisfied you no longer will. More mature, you must look for different things.

Day after day, you are each alone and quiet only when you are asleep. Take time to be quiet while you are awake. Whenever you discipline yourself to be still, I can make things clearer to you, and renew you in my spirit, as I do now.

Photographs — Acknowledgements

Photographs in this issue are by courtesy of the following—*Leicester Mercury* (cover picture); P & M Photographic, Farnham (345); Graham Jay Press Agency (355); LEPRA (357); *Bexhill-on-Sea Observer* (360); *Evening Post*, Bristol (366); *Birmingham Post & Mail* (367).

FROM ALL PARTS



AREA NEWS

SURREY AND SUSSEX

This is a Joint communiqué. Activity is all Joint at the start of our autumn programme. BANSTEAD, Surrey, recognised as a group in the summer, has really got off the ground, and held its first inaugural supper, bangers and all, with forty present. We were delighted to have Alec Churcher with us on that occasion. Before any of the members of the group were born, believe it or not, Alec was on the Toc H staff in Iceland, and with him there was another Toc H member, the very man who got together the band of young people who now form Banstead group. At the supper both he and Alec were able to hear its exciting plans for the future.

EAST GRINSTEAD is the second new Joint group, who were stampeded into it after 'Operation Octopus'. Only two months old, the group has already sponsored three Toc H Volunteers for Projects. One of them left home for three weeks, and when he returned (seven weeks later, via Birmingham and Poperinge!) he was a Toc H member. When the Volunteers got back and told of their experiences the group decided to 'adopt' a children's home.

The last item of this Joint communiqué concerns the unit at LANCING. Slightly older than the others, it has now been recognised as a Branch and at a large gathering received its Lamp from Charles Potts.

RAY FABES

MANCHESTER

The art of being a good secretary has been defined as organising oneself out of office but that does not quite apply to the departure of our Area Secretary, Jack Shaw, who, when RISHTON Branch received its Lamp, made an eloquent speech to some two hundred people representing the civic, religious, educational and social life of Rishton and neighbouring towns.

At the East Lancs Weekend Conference at Blackpool Jack was presented with an inscribed silver cigarette box, filled with his favourite brand, and on other occasions was bidden farewell in melodious and felicitous terms by Area Chairmen, colleagues, pop groups, classical pianists and many others. Rarely can such diverse talents have been put to the praise of one man. Jack bore this volume of good wishes with his usual good humour, though did once remark that it was a bit much for anyone to be buried four times in one week! Now, having survived it all, and blessed with the gratitude of the Areas in the form of a cheque, he has retired to Northern Ireland where he will write his memoirs. Whether they are entitled "Winds of Change" or "Coming Events Cast Their Shadows", we await them with interest.



Congratulations to Councillor Frank Laughton, J.P., of Sale Branch. A member of Toc H since 1932, he has been elected Mayor of Sale.

We have also said goodbye to Mrs. Eva Crompton who, from the Area Office, has for long dispensed advice, sympathy and petty cash to members near and far. She and her husband are now Wardens of the Royley Carr Flats at Bredbury, where, rumour has it, some staff members have already booked rooms for their retirement! Mrs. Crompton's successor is Mrs. Winifred R. Mills, who, besides having to learn a new language of signs and symbols and peculiar phrases, has to cope with the mounting pressure of the £28,000 Mark IV Extension Appeal. This was given a fine send-off by our Vice-Patron, the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, who came up to Manchester to launch it on September 15.

RON HALL.

NOTTINGHAM

Having heard the suggestion from another part of the country that the efforts of Mobile Action and of Project Teams are not always as satisfactory as they might be, I visited the home of an elderly lady living alone in Beeston, where two weeks previously I had seen the NOTTINGHAM Mobile Action Team engaged in redecorating the living room.

The room had been in real need of redecoration. The lady had supplied wallpaper, the Team had provided paint, and she was extremely pleased with the result. The room looks clean, fresh and bright. The property is old and the corners far from square, which made papering rather difficult, but the work, though by no means professional, was well done and to the satisfaction of the occupant. The Team also tidied up her small garden.

What was particularly heart-warming was the obvious delight of the old lady when she told me: "One of those nice young men said that he would come back and see me again and I'm looking forward to it so much."

Relevant to this is my intention to have a local decorator to meet Mobile Action members and talk to them on the subject of decorating by the amateur. It could include some useful labour-saving hints and perhaps cost-saving ones too. I also hope that a local gardener will deal in the same way with the business of tidying up neglected gardens.

This idea is not intended to be a reflection on the ability of those who are undertaking this good work but rather as an encouragement. No doubt there will be older members of the Movement who will want to glean a few tips!

BILL HARRIS

KENT

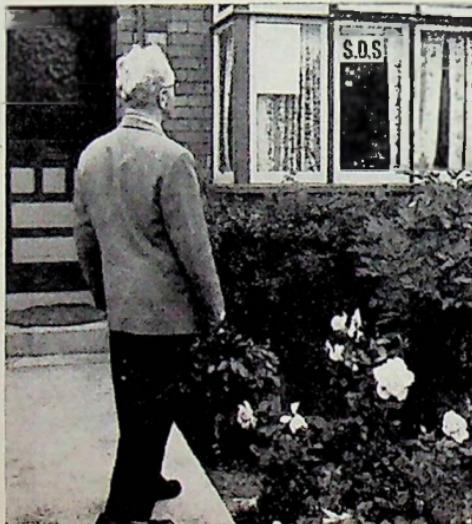
After many years of neglect, the care and upkeep of Lord Wakefield's grave has been officially handed over to HYTHE Branch. The work of clearing the surroundings, cleaning the stonework, and reforming the lettering has been carried out by members of the Branch, and this spot is once again a fitting memorial to one who loved Toc H and was among its greatest benefactors.

In what now has become an annual job RAMSGATE Branch organised over 230 collectors to raise £486 6s. in the town's Christian Aid Week. This year's collection will go towards the provision of a domestic and irrigation water supply in the diocese of Medak, South India.

The projected Joint group at MONKTON/MINSTER-IN-THANET has already decided that one of its jobs shall be the provision of a voluntary service to get medicines, etc., to elderly and infirm folk who are unable to collect them from the one chemist's shop in the area. Arrangements are already in hand to establish the necessary depot, and once this is laid on the service will start. The group will also arrange to convey urgent oxygen deliveries to residents suffering from asthma, etc., where normal supplies are delayed.

GILBERT FRANCIS

WESTERN



ACTION !

Western-super-Mare
and Milton Branches
are involved in this
S.O.S. good neighbour
scheme.

WEST MIDLANDS



The garden and coach-house of Mark VI, Birmingham, made a fine setting for this recent Shakespearian production.

BEDS & HERTS

The members of WOLVERTON Branch have long been helping the physically disabled and recently have begun to take an interest in the mentally handicapped. One of their August efforts was a Saturday afternoon cruise down the Grand Union Canal, when the guests were trainees and ex-trainees of the Adult Section for the Mentally Handicapped at Bletchley. This was made possible by a donation from Mr. Tom West of New Bradwell who, when his wife died a few weeks previously, asked for donations for charity instead of flowers.

The party of thirty boarded the narrow boat *Linda* at Cosgrove Lock—this incidentally was the boat which conveyed the Queen Mother when she performed the opening of the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal in July 1964. They were welcomed aboard by the Toc H crew and taken down (or is it up?) the canal to the lawn of the Black Horse Inn at Great Linford. Here tables and chairs had been kindly provided and the non-sailors amongst the Toc H members had already arrived with eats and drinks.

MAYNE ELSON

DOR KNAP

During Warden's Week the annual cricket match for the Trinder Cup, the Over Forties versus the Under Forties, dispelled any doubts that the physical work and mental exertions of the sessions had affected the week's occupants. With outfit kindly loaned by Broadway Cricket Club the sides staged a miniature Test which ended with a convincing win for the Seniors by an innings and four runs. The Cup, suitably filled, was presented on the last evening, and will occupy jointly the Branch premises of two northern units until next year's match. It was gratifying to see a full house both for Seniors' Week and Warden's Week. Dor Knap was at its best with the maximum enjoyment of fellowship and physical and spiritual uplift.

BILL CAPPER

SOUTH WESTERN

The proposal to hold a reunion party for past and present members and old friends of PLYMOUTH Branch was held up at first because records had been lost during the war and addresses of early members were missing. We were encouraged when John Burrows ('Bunny'), dictating a letter from a hospital bed in London, gave us addresses of some pre-war members. This started a chain of letters that produced more addresses.

It was decided to have no speeches and no set programme, but just to give old members and friends an opportunity to meet and talk. Any who could not come were asked to send messages. The response was very encouraging. Several now living at a distance wrote of happy days in the Branch, and some sent photographs of special occasions.

The Prysten House with its friendly old rooms was a good setting for this informal and happy gathering on June 13. It was exciting to watch the entrance, wondering what long-absent face would next appear. There was no need for a reception committee, as at once newcomers were surrounded by old comrades. Among the sixty-two attending were ex-members of the Branch and a good muster from Branches in the District, including the Women's Association.

A surprise visitor was the Rev. 'Jagee' Veysey, once Branch Padre and a great worker at the wartime Toc H Club in Plymouth. Aged eighty-three, he travelled from Croydon to be with us. Jack Langridge, a leader of our Rover Crew before the war, drove from Tiverton and was soon in a

huddle with other ex-Rovers over the old Log Books. These and other missing records were brought in by a former Secretary who had stored them safely over the years.

At intervals messages were read out from absent friends, and the refreshments offered by our ladies and Crownhill Women's Association added to the pleasure of the occasion.

Members who had joined the Elder Brethren were remembered when Light was taken by 'Shorty' Weir, once Toc H Secretary with the Home Fleet and the China Fleet. Before we broke up, "Jerusalem" was sung lustily, and Padre 'Jagee' Veysey led homegoing prayers.

ROWLAND SEWELL

Centre Forward

THE EDITOR

THOUGH THE CROYDON CENTRE has in fact been operating for something like two years it was opened officially on September 8 by the Hon. Angus Ogilvy in the presence of many civic representatives and local friends. The Bishop of Croydon, the Rt. Rev. J. T. Hughes, gave the blessing.

The Vice-Patron said that one of the principal aims of the Centre was to be a place where people could meet and decide how to tackle the problems facing them and the community in which they lived. How far that aim is being realised was evidenced by Simon Allard, the Warden, who said that some five hundred Toc H and other volunteers had lent a hand in converting the premises to their present use. Already some twenty-four different groups and organisations were using the Centre, their wide range including a pre-school play group; a coffee bar for 'unattached' youngsters; rehabilitation of ex-mental patients, alcoholics and ex-prisoners; and a work room and social club for the elderly. We hope to publish the full text of his speech in another issue.

So now the Centre is fully launched; much has been done, and more will be tackled in due course. But there still remains a financial problem to solve. So far only £2,500 of the £10,000 cost has been raised, and in these days of credit restriction that is not a happy situation. We hope that the very cordial acceptance of the Centre as part of the new life that is springing up on all sides in Croydon will be followed by a truly practical vote of confidence.

“The People Next Door”

HUGH POTTS

Vicar of St. Catharine's, and Branch Padre, Gloucester.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO TOC H is, if I hear it aright, simply this: God's plan for the world is a Family of brethren under a God who is a Father. We speak not from a book but from the knowledge born of experience.

It is a far cry back to the days of the “Kaiser's War” when the great experience of the Old House was given. Since then, looking at over a generation of separatist activity of many an earnest Christian denomination, Toc H must often have been tempted to echo with unusual fervour the refrain, “When will they ever learn?”.

But all of a sudden the answer seems to be “They've started at last!”. For this year sees the launching by the British Council of Churches of a programme of study and action sponsored jointly by the twenty-seven member Churches of the British Council of Churches and the sixty Missionary Societies of the Conference of British Missionary Societies. It is called “The People Next Door” and is to start in Lent, 1967; planning and training are already beginning, however.

The Study Course comprises six sessions. Training for group leaders is arranged, the trainers having already been briefed.

Every minister of all the denominations participating has had full particulars. There is nothing to prevent all those who profess and call themselves Christians from taking part in Christian discussion in small interdenominational house groups of ten or so this coming Lent. The programme sets out to draw together in local missionary action and education all the members of neighbouring churches and congregations "at the depth which can only be achieved by personal encounter in small groups".

Can you think of any prescription for the churches more in tune with Toc H? I hope its members up and down the country will get alongside the churches as they set themselves to take a systematic look at "The People Next Door", asking the local minister or man of God, whatever his denomination, his own plans for this nation-wide programme.

¶ There is a chance here, too good to miss, for Toc H to bring its peculiar genius alongside the churches as they make this great effort to discover for themselves the essential Unity of all Christians in their world mission.

Ernie says :



Headquarters, Regions, Areas and Houses of Toc H



November 1966

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